

Union Pacific Third Mainline – Proviso Yard

May 2022

SCOPE OF WORK

This project constructed a 3.5-mile third main track on the UP Geneva Subdivision, including a new railroad bridge over Addison Creek, allowing for increased operating speeds on the connection between the Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) and UP. Additionally, a new flyover connection from IHB to the UP was built to cross over the UP main line tracks and connect with the new third main track and Proviso Yard.

Control points were reconfigured at three locations and associated signaling for the new main track. The connecting track between the UP and IHB was upgraded to increase allowable speeds from 10 mph to 20 mph.

The Metra Berkeley and Bellwood passenger stations on the UP-West line were improved and pedestrian underpasses were constructed at both stations.

BENEFITS

The project increased the number of simultaneous train movements and routing options for passenger and freight traffic. Freight trains now have an additional track for mobility during Metra rush hour and avoid standing delays of 3 to 4 hours, which were common during the rush hour periods when Metra has priority. Previously, Metra had access to both main tracks for operation in both directions during peak periods, and freight trains were held stationary while waiting for route availability. Conversely, when freight trains proceeded but were unable to clear the location in the time allowed, Metra trains often experienced delays. Now, Metra trains can operate unimpeded on two main tracks, while freight trains utilize the third main line, and can operate around slow-moving freight trains entering or leaving Proviso Yard. Additionally, freight trains can traverse the area more freely. The new pedestrian underpasses at the Bellwood and Berkeley Metra stations facilitate safe and efficient movement of commuters from the parking lot to the center platform without crossing the tracks at grade.

Location

From near 25th Avenue west along the Union Pacific (UP) right of way to the west end of Proviso Yard near I-294
Melrose Park, IL

Daily Trains Affected

60 Freight Trains
(CN, CP, IHB, CSX, UP, NS)
59 UP-West Metra Trains

Communities Benefited

Elmhurst, Melrose Park,
Bellwood and Berkeley, IL

PROJECT PHOTO



PROJECT STATUS

Phase I NEPA – Preliminary Design	Phase II Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	Phase III Construction
Completed	Completed	Completed September 2013

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

